

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) Laminate comprising:

alternating metal layers and at least one plastic bonding layer,

each of said metal layers comprising two metal layer sections, said two metal layer sections having mutually overlapping ends whose opposing surfaces are bonded to one another, one of said mutually overlapping ends being displaced in a thickness direction of the laminate to overlap the other of said mutually overlapping ends so that, except for the displaced one of the ends, said two metal layer sections are extensions of one another, and

a fill that comprises at least one further metal layer, said fill being spaced from and not overlapping the mutually overlapping ends and having a thickness such that at the location of the fill the laminate has a thickness equal to a thickness of the laminate at the mutually overlapping ends.

2. (previously presented) Laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the fill is on at least one side of two of the mutually overlapping ends.

3. (previously presented) Laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the fill is on both sides of two of the mutually overlapping ends.

4-6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) Laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the fill further comprises at least one further plastic bonding layer.

8. (previously presented) Laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the further metal layer has a thickness greater than that of said metal layers.

9. (previously presented) Laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the plastic bonding layer comprises a layer of adhesive.

10. (previously presented) Laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the plastic bonding layer comprises a fibre layer that has been impregnated with an adhesive.

11. (previously presented) Laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the fill is interlaminar.

12-20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) Laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the further metal layer has a thickness the same as that of said metal layers.

22. (currently amended) Laminate comprising:

alternating metal layers (10-13) and at least one plastic bonding layer (14-17), each of said metal layers comprising two metal layer sections (18-19),

wherein in a join region (4, 5) of said laminate said two metal layer sections have mutually overlapping ends (20-21) whose opposing surfaces are bonded to one another, one of said mutually overlapping ends being displaced in a thickness direction of the laminate to overlap the other of said mutually overlapping ends, and

wherein in a fill region (6) of said laminate a fill (8), comprising a further metal layer, is provided between two of said metal layers and spaced laterally from the mutually overlapping ends so as to avoid overlapping the mutually overlapping ends, said fill having a thickness such that in the fill region the laminate has a thickness equal to a thickness of the laminate in the join region.

23. (previously presented) Laminate according to Claim 22, wherein the further metal layer has a thickness the same as that of said metal layers.

24. (new) A laminate comprising:

at least four metal layers and a respective plastic bonding layer between each adjacent pair of said metal layers,

wherein each of said metal layers comprises a pair of metal layer sections, each said pair of metal layer sections having mutually overlapping ends whose opposing surfaces are bonded to one another,

wherein, in each said pair, one of said mutually overlapping ends is displaced in a thickness direction of the laminate to

overlap the other of said mutually overlapping ends in the respective said pair so that, except for the displaced one of the ends, said pair of metal layer sections are extensions of one another,

wherein said mutually overlapping ends of each said pair of metal layer sections do not overlap said mutually overlapping ends of any other said pair of metal layer sections such that at the location of said mutually overlapping ends the laminate has a uniform thickness; and

a fill that comprises at least one further metal layer, said fill being spaced from and not overlapping any of said mutually overlapping ends and having a thickness such that at the location of the fill the laminate has a thickness equal to the uniform thickness of the laminate at said mutually overlapping ends.